

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 EUR-12 ARA-06 DOTE-00 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /095 W  
----- 106085

R 241615Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8585

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BC, CH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KHAMA'S TRIP TO ASIA: THE CHINESE AGREEMENT  
AND DELEGATION REACTION

REF: A) GABORONE 1499; B) GABORONE 1592

1. CONCERNING THE CHINESE-BOTSWANA ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT, (SEE REFS) CHINESE EMBASSY COUNSLOR, KAO E, TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 22 THAT THE DOCUMENT DEALT ONLY WITH BROAD PRINCIPLES AND NOT WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS. HE SAID THAT DETAILS WERE TO BE WORKED OUT LATER IN SEPARATE AGREEMENTS. WHEN THE EMBOFF NOTED MOUNTING SPECULATION THAT THE CHINESE WERE ABOUT TO DO IT AGAIN, I.E.BUILD A SECOND RAILROAD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, KAO E LAUGHTED INSCRUTABLY.

2. PERMANENT SECRETARY MANNATHOKO OF MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 22 THAT TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS UNTIL INTER-MINISTRY BRIEFING OF RESULTS OF TRIP ON AUGUST 25. HOWEVER, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE AGREEMENT DEALT WITH GENERALITIES ONLY. HE NOTED THAT  
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WHAT SOME GOVERNMENTS MIGHT CALL AN "AGREEMENT" WAS NOT MUCH MORE,

IN EFFECT, THAN A STANDARD COMMUNIQUE. GIVEN BOTSWANA'S POSITION IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHAKEY SOUTHERN AFRICA, MANNATHOKO SAID THE CHINA TRIP WAS UNDERTAKEN SIMPLY TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT "BOTSWANA HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS." IN THIS RESPECT THE ASIAN TRIP WAS SIMILAR TO KHAMA'S EARLIER TRIP TO THE U.S. AND CANADA.

3. CONCERNING PROSPECTS FOR CHINESE ECONOMIC PENETRATION HERE, MANNATHOKO SAID BOTSWANA HAD BASICALLY NO INTEREST IN A LAND WHOSE CURRENCY WAS NOT CONVERTABLE. IRONICALLY, HE SAID, THE GOB DELEGATION WAS MOST IMPRESSED THE "CAPITALIST BEHAVIOR" OF THE CHINESE, WHO PROUDLY SHOWED THE VISITORS PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED BY AMERICAN AND JAPANESE ASSISTANCE.

4. AS FOR NORTH KOREA, MANNATHOKO SAID THAT THE GOB VISITORS WERE NEGATIVELY IMPRESSED, DUBBING IT AN ASIAN UGANDA LED BY AN ASIAN IDI AMIN. IN SIMILAR VEIN, SON OF PRESIDENT KHAMA, IAN, TOLD EMBOFF AUSUT 22 HE WAS SHOCKED BY DEGREE OF REGIMENTATION HE FOUND IN CHINA, THAT THE SOCIAL COST HAD BEEN TOO HIGH A PRICE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

5. COMMENT: MANNATHOKO'S REMARKS ON BOTSWANA'S NEED FOR LOTS OF FRIENDS (PARA 2), WHEN TAKEN TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT KAHAMA'S REMARKS TO AFRICAN DIPLOMATS IN CHINA DEPLORING THE "DANGEROUS TENDENCY TO ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE VICTIMS OF SUPER POWERS BY ALLOWING THEM FOOTHOLD IN OUR COUNTRIES", SUGGESTS THAT ONE GOAL OF CHINA TRIP WAS TO HELP NEUTRALIZE IMPACT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA OF SOVIET/CUBAN ANGOLAN VENTURE.

6. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF AGREEMENT AND WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE.  
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## Message Attributes

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